



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,  
the Environment and Water

## Indigenous Protected Areas Program: Existing Indigenous Protected Areas Project Grant Opportunity Guidelines GO6357

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<b>Administering entity</b>	<b>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</b>
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## 1. Indigenous Protected Areas Program: Existing IPA Projects Processes

### **The Indigenous Protected Areas Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives**

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's (DCCEEW) Outcome 2. DCCEEW in collaboration with the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines \(CGRGs\)](#).



### **The grant opportunity opens**

We publish the grant guidelines on [GrantConnect](#)



### **You do not need to complete and submit a grant application**

Your suitability to receive a grant will be assessed using existing information.



### **We assess grant suitability**

We assess your suitability to receive a grant against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value for money.



### **We make grant recommendations**

We provide advice to the decision maker.



### **Grant decisions are made**

The decision maker decides the suitability of the organisations.



### **We notify you of the outcome**

We advise you of the outcome.



### **We enter into a grant agreement**

We (DCCEEW or NIAA) will enter into a grant agreement with you if suitable. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportional to the risks involved.



### **Delivery of grant**

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. DCCEEW and NIAA manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



### **Evaluation of the Indigenous Protected Areas Program**

We evaluate your specific grant activity and the Indigenous Protected Areas Program: Existing IPA Projects as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

## 1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Indigenous Protected Areas (**IPA**) program: Existing IPA Projects (**the Program**) grant opportunity.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how suitability to receive a grant is considered
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process will be jointly administered by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

## 2. About the grant program

The Program supports First Nations people to voluntarily dedicate and manage their land and sea Country for biodiversity conservation and the protection of cultural values. IPAs are recognised by the Australian Government as an important part of the National Reserve System (NRS) of Protected Areas<sup>1</sup>, and complementary to the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas<sup>2</sup>.

There are currently 84 dedicated IPAs across Australia and 26 IPAs under consultation working towards dedication. IPAs now make up more than 50% of Australia's NRS, covering over 87 million hectares of land. IPAs also cover 5 million hectares of sea Country<sup>3</sup>.

IPAs provide significant cultural, social and economic benefits, including employment for Indigenous land and sea managers, facilitate intergenerational knowledge transfer, help to maintain and reinvigorate language and culture, and support Indigenous rangers as role models engaging with youth in their communities.

This Program is funded from the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) special account<sup>4</sup>. The NHT special account was established in 1997 to support environmental protection, sustainable agriculture and natural resource management.

Further information on the Program is available on the DCCEEW and NIAA websites<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See defined term National Reserve System of Protected Areas in the Glossary under Section 14 of these Guidelines

<sup>2</sup> See defined term National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas in the Glossary under Section 14 of these Guidelines

<sup>3</sup> Data current as at 21 September 2023

<sup>4</sup> See defined term Natural Heritage Trust Special account in the Glossary under Section 14 of these Guidelines

<sup>5</sup> [Indigenous Protected Areas - DCCEEW](#) and [Indigenous Protected Areas \(IPAs\) | National Indigenous Australians Agency \(niaa.gov.au\)](#)

## 2.1 Objectives of the program

The Program will run over four years from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2028.

The Program objective is to strengthen the conservation and protection of Australia's environmental and cultural values through establishing and managing IPAs. The Program also contributes to social and economic benefits for First Nations people.

The expected Outcomes of the Program are:

- Australia's NRS has increased and the condition of Australia's environment across land and sea has improved.
- First Nations people are empowered to fulfil their custodial obligations over land and sea Country and achieve environmental, cultural, social, and economic benefits.
- Enhance collaboration between First Nations people and partners and strengthen governance for the protection, conservation and sustainable management of Australia's land and seascapes.

The Program is helping Australia meet its international environmental obligations including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework<sup>6</sup> (GBF) that was adopted in December 2022 under the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity.

The Australian Government has committed to protect and conserve 30% of Australia's land (including inland waters) and 30% of our marine areas by 2030 (known as the 30 by 30 target). 22% of Australia's landmass and 48% of Australia's marine areas are currently in our protected area estate. An additional 60 million hectares is required to reach the 30% land target. The 30 by 30 target includes a focus on areas that are important for biodiversity. Existing dedicated IPAs already contribute over 87 million terrestrial hectares to this target and this will continue to grow as existing consultation IPAs dedicate and through the establishment of 10 new IPAs through a separate grant opportunity (see GrantConnect GO6355).

The Program also supports the Australian Government's National Agreement on Closing the Gap Implementation Plan, including contributing towards targets 8, 15 and 16, by supporting First Nations people connection to Country; and the Priority Reforms (particularly *Priority Two – Building the Community-controlled Sector*) by supporting the success of projects managed by community-controlled organisations.

Achievement of Program Outcomes will be demonstrated by Traditional Owners<sup>7</sup> working collaboratively with government and non-government partners<sup>8</sup> and stakeholders<sup>9</sup> to protect, conserve and improve the condition of the cultural and environmental values of the IPAs. Supporting and empowering Traditional Owners to fulfil their responsibilities to care for Country improves well-being and social cohesion, provides training, education and economic opportunities, such as jobs and fee-for-service activities, and maintains cultural knowledge.

The Program is closely aligned with the government's commitment to double the number of Indigenous Rangers by 2030, who play a critical role in managing and protecting the natural and cultural values of IPAs. The Program will focus on strengthening mutually beneficial outcomes for

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<sup>6</sup> See the GBF is available here: [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)

<sup>7</sup> See defined term Traditional Owners in the Glossary under section xx of these Guidelines,

<sup>8</sup> See defined term *partner* in the Glossary under section 14 of these Guidelines.

<sup>9</sup> See defined term stakeholder in the Glossary under section 14 of these Guidelines.

both IPAs and Indigenous Rangers, as well as streamlining administration and reporting requirements.

The Program is closely aligned to the Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032<sup>10</sup> which maps a pathway to protect, manage and restore Australia's threatened species and important natural places.

## 2.2 About the Indigenous Protected Areas grant opportunity

\$160.5 million (GST exclusive) over 4 years to 30 June 2028 is expected to be available to support the 110 existing IPA projects. This includes:

- existing dedicated IPA projects
- existing planned expansions of dedicated IPAs (i.e. a second phase or staged dedication) – as described in the most recent IPA Plan of Management that was endorsed by the Australian Government, prior to 28 July 2023
- existing IPA consultation projects – including Sea Country consultation projects that were funded in 2022 through the Oceans Leadership Package.

The full list of eligible projects is covered in Section 4.2 of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Funding amounts provided to each IPA project will vary depending on the complexity and scope of activities. A funding guide is available at Appendix A.

New expansion projects for existing dedicated IPAs, will be funded through the *Indigenous Protected Areas Program Grant Opportunity for New and Expansion IPAs*<sup>11</sup>

## 2.3 Indigenous Protected Areas

An IPA is an area of land and/or sea managed by First Nations people for biodiversity conservation and the protection of cultural values, through activities such as pest plant and animal management, threatened species protection and cultural site management.

IPAs provide significant cultural, social and economic benefits for First Nations people. They provide employment for Indigenous land and sea managers, facilitate intergenerational knowledge transfer, promote the maintenance and reinvigoration of language and culture, and support Indigenous rangers as role models engaging with youth in their communities.

There are currently 84 dedicated IPAs covering over 87 million hectares of land and 5 million hectares of sea Country. IPAs on land are recognised by the Australian Government as an important part of the NRS, which is the network of formally recognised parks, reserves and protected areas across Australia.

There are two stages to an IPA project:

1. **Consultation Stage**— IPA projects start with a consultation stage involving discussion and planning within and between First Nations groups, partners and stakeholders with rights and interests in the area of the proposed IPA. Traditional Owners<sup>12</sup>, in accordance with their objectives, lead the development of a management plan that considers their traditional estate as a cultural and ecological whole and outlines proposed actions to

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<sup>10</sup> See the Australian Government's [Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032](#)

<sup>11</sup> This grant opportunity closed on 10 October 2023. Details are still available on [GrantConnect](#) (GO6355).

<sup>12</sup> See defined term Traditional Owners in the Glossary under Section 14 of these Guidelines.

protect natural and cultural values. Management plans typically complement, rather than propose the replacement of existing management arrangements.

Management plans must include the relevant International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) protected area category or categories<sup>13</sup> under which the IPA will be managed.

Management plans also identify opportunities for IPA managers to build financial and non-financial partnerships with government and non-government stakeholders, amplifying the impact of Australian Government investment.

2. **Dedication Stage** – the IPA project moves from the consultation to the dedication stage following an informed decision by Traditional Owners and other relevant parties to dedicate an area of land/sea as an IPA and manage the area in accordance with the management plan. An IPA has no impact on tenure arrangements. The following requirements must be met before the Australian Government recognises the area of the proposed IPA as a dedicated IPA:

- formal endorsement of the management plan by the Australian Government.
- The relevant Traditional Owner representative body provides assurance that the Traditional Owners have given their *free, prior and informed consent* <sup>14</sup> for the area to be dedicated as an IPA and managed in accordance with the management plan.
- Reasonable and due consideration of the rights and interests of all stakeholders in the relevant marine area. For example, a proposal to dedicate an IPA over an area of state waters should include letters of support from the relevant state government and industries.
- Evidence that the owners or leaseholders of land in the proposed IPA have consented to their land being included in the dedicated IPA.

For IPAs still in the consultation stage (including expansion projects still in consultation stage), this grant opportunity aims to fund existing consultation projects that can work towards achieving IPA dedication by 30 June 2028. If dedication is not reached, then further consultation funding for the same IPA project would be subject to a decision under a future IPA program. The Government is yet to make a decision regarding funding of the Program beyond 30 June 2028.

The Program is administered according to [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines](#) (CGRGs)<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup> An internationally recognised framework that categorises the variety of protected area management types according to their management objectives: [www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/about/protected-area-categories](http://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/about/protected-area-categories)

<sup>14</sup> A central element of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is genuine inclusion, disclosure, and respect for Indigenous Peoples' decision-making processes. The three elements (free, prior and informed) qualify and set the conditions of consent as a decision-making process. In the native title context, consent refers to the decisions made by the Traditional Owners being reached through their customary decision making processes. FPIC is not merely informing and getting consent, it is about effective and meaningful participation to ensure the best decision making for sustainable outcomes – especially where intergenerational decisions are involved. Refer AIATSIS website: AIATSIS FPIC Policy Snapshot 2020.pdf

<sup>15</sup> [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines | Department of Finance](#)



## 3. Grant amount and grant period

### 3.1 Grants Available

\$160.5 million (GST exclusive) in grants is expected to be available under this grant opportunity.

It is anticipated that most grants will be between \$100,000 to \$3 million over four years for each IPA project, depending on the scope and complexity of the grant activity. See **Appendix A** of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further information on the funding guide and factors we will consider in setting a recommended grant amount.

To recommend a new funding amount, we will use Eligible Entities' funding provided in the 2023-24 financial year and the budget guide at **Appendix A**, which takes into account the scope and complexity of each proposed IPA project. We may also seek additional information from you through a budget questionnaire as part of the grant assessment process.

An IPA identified in section 4.2 as having no project provider identified, may receive funding at a later date. The Minister for the Environment and Water (or their delegate), will need to be satisfied the IPA has acquired a suitable project provider.

At the discretion of the Minister for the Environment and Water (or their delegate), any unallocated grants funds may be granted to successful Eligible Entities under this grant opportunity that require additional funding at a later date. Grant agreement variations may be required (see section 12 of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines for the process to vary grant agreements).

Any entities that receive funding including those that may receive funding at a later date, including if they currently have no project provider identified, must satisfy the Eligibility Criteria and receive a Score of 1 or 2 (described at Section 8.1 of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines).

### 3.2 Grant Period

Grant projects are expected to be delivered between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2028.

Extensions will be subject to future funding availability and decisions by the Minister for the Environment and Water and must follow any processes that are prescribed in the grant agreement.

## 4. Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for this grant opportunity you must be an Eligible Entity listed under Section 4.2 of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines (**Eligible Entity**) and/or as provided in Section 4.1 of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

### 4.1 Who is eligible for a grant?

To be eligible to be assessed for funding you must be an Eligible Entity that is currently managing the IPA consultation or dedication project/s described at Section 4.2.

Eligible Entities will be considered for grant funding to continue to manage the IPA consultation or dedication project/s identified in the column 'IPA Project' of Section 4.2 of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines. The Eligible Entities have been endorsed by the Traditional Owners to manage, on their behalf, the IPA consultation and/or dedication projects.

## 4.2 Eligible Entities

Legal name of organisation	ABN	IPA Project/s
Anangu Pitjantjatjaraku Incorporated	77261612162	Antara – Sandy Bore Apara – Makiri – Punt Walalkara Kalka – Pipalyatjara Watarru
Anindilyakwa Land Council	45175406445	Anindilyakwa
Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation	95 826 121 536	Arafura Swamp
Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation	58572395053	Djelk
Bundi Yamatji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	11955042908	Yamatji Sea Connection
Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	99121997933	Nijinda Durlga Kurtijar Sea Country IPA
Central Land Council	71979619393	Angas Downs Katiti Petermann Northern Tanami Southern Tanami Haasts Bluff
Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation	74277585078	Kaanju Ngaachi
Coffs Harbour & District Local Aboriginal Land Council	64178399734	Gumma
Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation	48508877524	Dambimangari
Desert Support Services Pty Ltd	41154511494	Kiwirrkurra Birriliburu Matuwa and Kurrara-Kurrara Ngurra Kayanta Ngururpa
Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation	95520121809	Dhimurru
Ewamian Limited	57150274639	Talaroo
Gidarjil Development Corporation Limited	69094934586	Port Curtis Coral Coast Sea Country IPA
Girringun Aboriginal Corporation	55744388981	Girringun
Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council	84095702728	Boorabee and The Willows

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	43709397769	Nanjit to Mallacoota Sea Country IPA
Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	30030646482	Kurtonitj Lake Condah Gunditjmara Sea Country IPA
Guyra Local Aboriginal Land Council	80130589804	Wattleridge Tarriwa Kurrukun
Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTC	79611886178	Eastern Kuku Yalanji
Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council	73890511469	Ngunya Jargoan
Jamukurnu-Yapalikurnu Aboriginal Corporation (Western Desert Lands) RNTBC	37846306459	Jilakurru Kaalpi and Western Desert Lakes (Martu)
Karajarri Traditional Lands Association (Aboriginal Corporation) RNTBC	17300429149	Karajarri Tukujana pa Karajarri Kura Jurra Sea Country
Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	96724252047	Balanggarra Bardi Jawi Paruku Mayala Nyul Nyul
Kooma Traditional Owners Association Inc	40074899397	Jamba Dhandan Duringala
The Trustee for Kulla Land Trust	79804210435	Umpila
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation	86695642473	Laynhapuy
Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Indigenous Corporation	50048081897	Yanyuwa (Barni - Wardimantha Awara)
Mamu Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	20894321353	Mamu
Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	72038783936	Mandingalbay Yidinji
Marthakal Homelands and Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation	17397988374	Marthakal
Milingimbi and Outstations Progress Resources Aboriginal Corporation	95362856173	Crocodile Island Maringa
Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation	68572205455	Mimal
Minyumai Land Holding Aboriginal Corporation	46468671993	Minyumai
Nari Nari Tribal Council	38393476568	Toogimbie

Ngaanyatjarra Council (Aboriginal Corporation)	88304990870	Ngaanyatjarra
Ngadju Conservation Aboriginal Corporation	70877369988	Ngadju
Ngarang-Wal Gold Coast Aboriginal Association Incorporated	50084718306	Guanaba
Ngiyambandigay Wajaar Aboriginal Corporation	32466398601	Ngiyambandigay Gaagal
Nipapanha Community Aboriginal Corporation	97841764643	Nantawarrina
Northern Land Council	56327515336	Ganalanga-Mindibirrina South-East Arnhem Land South Easter Arnhem Land Sea Country Wardaman
Nyamba Buru Yawuru Ltd	87137306917	Yawuru
Oak Valley (Maralinga) Aboriginal Corporation	19598209330	Maralinga Tjarutja
Olkola Aboriginal Corporation	44369362831	Olkola
Pila Nguru (Aboriginal Corporation) RNTBC	86789767972	Spinifex Pilki (Anangu Tjutaku)
Pindiddy Aboriginal Corporation	53738967086	Ninghan
Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation	48212321102	Mt Chappell Island Badger Island Piyura kitina (Risdon Cove) putalina Babel Island Great Dog Island lungatalanana preminghana tayaritja Sea Country
Tiwi Land Council	86106441085	Tiwi Islands
Thamarrurr Development Corporation Limited	54124789493	Marri-Jabin
The Aboriginal Lands Trust of South Australia	68182536195	Wardang Island Wardand Island Sea Country Yappala
The Trustee for Framlingham Aboriginal Trust	13 654 946 401	Deen Maar Framlingham Forest
Tjirilya Aboriginal Corporation	31977593738	Mount Willoughby

Torres Strait Regional Authority	57155285807	Pulu (Mabuyag People) Warraberalgal Porumalgal Ugul Malu Kawal (Warul Kawa) Magani Lagaugal Masigalgal
Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	13189934505	Nyikina Mangala
Warddeken Land Management Limited	12128878142	Warddeken
Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Limited	26564626453	Wurdi Youang
Wellesley Islands Land Sea Social Economic Development Pty Ltd	34602718936	Thuwathu/Bujimulla
Wik Projects Limited	78124540898	Wik
Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation	17427543951	Wilinggin
Winangakirri Aboriginal Corporation	75286093884	Mawonga
Winda -Mara Aboriginal Corporation	71636105116	Tyrendarra
Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation	75720456104	Uunguu
Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	46241644987	Wuthathi Shelburne Bay
Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation	23404857519	Yalata
Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation	14011921883	Nyangumarta Warrarn
Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	45251298504	Warlu Jilajaa Jumu
Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation	34483519812	Wera Forest
<i>No project provider is identified</i>		Angkum
<i>No project provider is identified</i>		Brewarina
<i>No project provider is identified</i>		Weilmoringle
<i>No project provider is identified</i>		Dorodong

### 4.3 What qualifications, skills or checks are required?

All Eligible Entities will be required to comply with all applicable laws as provided in the grant agreement. This includes maintaining all qualifications, permits, registrations and licences required for the lawful performance of the activity or service to be provided. This also includes mandatory Work, Health and Safety requirements, and requirements for Working with Children checks, Working with Vulnerable People checks, industry licenses or registration or Australian Skills Quality Authority accreditation. Eligible Entities must have in place a remuneration structure under which they will employ staff. The remuneration structure must align to a relevant state or nationally recognised award and/or a registered Enterprise Agreement.

*Note: If during the grant period an Eligible Entity becomes unable to perform the grant activities, DCCEEW and the NIAA may consider a request from a suitable alternative entity to replace the Eligible Entity where the alternative entity has the endorsement of the relevant Traditional Owners to manage the IPA Project.*

## 5. What the grant money can be used for

### 5.1 Eligible grant activities

Through this grant opportunity IPA consultation projects (including expansion projects still in consultation) will initially be limited to consultation and planning activities (described at **Appendix B**). Funding amounts for the consultation and planning activities will be guided by the consultation rate described at **Appendix A**.

Dedicated IPAs and IPA projects that dedicate within the timeframe of the Program, will be eligible to undertake dedication activities (described at **Appendix B**) and will be eligible for dedication rate funding (as set out in **Appendix A**).

Sea Country<sup>16</sup> consultation IPA projects funded in 2022 under the Oceans Leadership Package will be eligible to undertake both consultation and dedication activities described at **Appendix B**. Funding will be guided by the funding guide described at **Appendix A**. Funding amounts for these projects will be guided by dedicated rate together taking into consideration consultation and planning activities underway.

### 5.2 Eligible expenditure

Successful applicants can only spend the grant funding on eligible expenditure they have incurred on agreed IPA project activities.

- For guidance on eligible expenditure, see **Appendix B**.
- We may update the guidelines on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If you are successful, the version in place when you were successful applies to your activity.
- If your project is successful, you will be required to submit annual budgets for consideration and approval by DCCEEW and NIAA. We negotiate the annual budget against standardised budget line items used in standard NIAA funding agreements, including a breakdown of costs into major categories, such as: administration and audit, wages/oncosts, operational and assets.
- Not all expenditure on your activities may be eligible for grant funding. The Program Delegate<sup>17</sup> makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

It is important that all expenditure on your project activities is incurred after the start date and before end or completion date of the grant agreement for it to be eligible. Funds expended prior to an executed funding agreement being in place and the agreed start date of a project will not be considered eligible expenditure and are unable to be reimbursed from funding subsequently received.

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<sup>16</sup> Sea Country IPA consultation projects are IPAs that were granted funding under the Sea Country IPA Grant Program in 2021-22: [Sea Country Indigenous Protected Areas Program - Grant Opportunity - DCCEEW](#)

<sup>17</sup> See defined term *Program Delegate* in the Glossary under section 14 of these Guidelines

### *Commercial benefits*

We support activities that could lead to commercial benefits and/or additional income (e.g. fee for service) provided these do not impact the delivery of the activities identified in the IPA's annual activity plan and is consistent with the assigned IUCN category of the IPA. This does not apply to consultation activities.

If you are successful, commercial or fee-for-service activities will need to be identified as part of your annual activity and budget planning and be endorsed by NIAA or DCCEEW.

## **5.3 What the grant money cannot be used for**

You cannot use grant funding for the following activities:

- activities currently receiving, or which have previously received, funding through other Australian Government, state or territory funding initiatives or programs, or from other third parties, where those activities are fully funded by that program and/or are substantially the same.
- Purchase or transfer costs of land or buildings, including housing, land rates and levies.
- Activities outside of Australia (with the exception of International Travel as described in Appendix B of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines).
- Activities that duplicate work undertaken by Australian, state, territory or local government bodies.
- Activities inconsistent with the objectives of the Program, the IPA management plan, if one is in place, or the assigned IUCN category/s (see section 2.1 of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines).
- Activities likely to have a significant adverse impact on any matter of national environmental significance under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- Activities likely to have a significant adverse impact on natural, historic or Indigenous cultural heritage.

## **6. The assessment criteria**

The following assessment criterion will be used to assess an Eligible Entity's suitability to receive a grant.

### **Criteria 1 – Efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of relevant money**

The Eligible Entities will be assessed on their capability to successfully deliver on the intended objectives of the IPA Program (Section 2.1):

1. capability to deliver on IPA activities; and maintenance, review and implementation of the IPA Plan of Management,
2. capability to manage the financial aspects of the grant funding, including the project budget and reporting on expenditure and
3. organisational and cultural governance for the management of the IPA, including meeting performance monitoring and reporting requirements.

The above criteria will be assessed using:

1. the Eligible Entity's performance, compliance and financial reporting information and data over the last 4 financial years (where available).
2. Information on the Eligible Entity's overall risk, including from any registering Authority and the Entity's Organisational Risk Profile (ORP) as calculated by the NIAA.
3. Additional information provided by NIAA agreement managers, regional engagement officers and other NIAA / DCCEEW officials.

4. Any other additional information, expertise and advice within the Commonwealth or other key stakeholders that may be needed to inform the assessment process.

Funding amounts will be determined in line with the guide provided at **Appendix A** of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

We may also request additional information from Eligible Entities to further support the assessment of IPA projects against this assessment criterion and to inform a funding amount. If required, DCCEEW or NIAA will contact Eligible Entities directly to acquire the relevant information.

## 7. How to apply

Eligible Entities do not need to apply for this grant opportunity. Existing IPA providers (Eligible Entities) will be notified of the release of the grant guidelines including advice that no application is required. This may be communicated by the NIAA and/or DCCEEW.

DCCEEW and NIAA will assess the Eligible Entities' suitability to receive a grant against the criterion in Section 6 of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

The organisations must read and understand these Grant Opportunity Guidelines and the sample grant agreement. The documents will be available on Grant Connect and by registering on Grant Connect the Eligible Entity will be automatically notified on any changes.

GrantConnect is the authoritative source for information on this Grant Opportunity.

If you need further guidance on this process, contact us by email: [IPAapplication@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:IPAapplication@dcceew.gov.au) or phone 1800 920 528.

### 7.1 Timing of grant opportunity processes

For successful Eligible Entities we expect they will be able to commence grant activities on 1 July 2024.

Table: Expected timeline for this grant opportunity

Activity	Expected Timeframe
Published on GrantConnect	2 weeks
Assessment of suitability	8 weeks
Approval of outcomes of assessment process	4 weeks
Negotiation of new funding agreements	6 months
Earliest start date of grant activity	1 July 2024
End date of grant activity	30 June 2028

Options for contract extensions will be provided for in grant agreements subject to funding availability and decisions by the Australian Government.

### 7.2 Questions during the grant process

If you have any questions during the opportunity process, contact us at [IPAapplication@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:IPAapplication@dcceew.gov.au) or by calling 1800 920 528.

We will respond to emailed questions within five working days, and information on GrantConnect will be updated as necessary.



## 8. The grant assessment and selection process

### 8.1 Assessment of eligible organisations to receive grant funding

Only Eligible Entities (listed at Section 4.2 of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines) will be considered for this grant opportunity and assessed against Criterion 1 in Section 6.

Rating for Criterion 1	Rank
Score of 2: Eligible Entities assessed as achieving <u>high confidence</u> against the matters listed against Criterion 1.	Suitable
Score of 1: Eligible Entities assessed as achieving <u>moderate confidence</u> against the matters listed against Criterion 1.	Suitable with additional conditions*
Score of 0 – Eligible Entities assessed as achieving an average of <u>no-confidence</u> against the matters listed against Criterion 1.	Not Suitable

*\*Conditions will be specified in grant agreements.*

An Assessment Committee (see Section 8.2 for further details) will undertake an assessment of the matters listed against Criterion 1 using the Eligible Entity existing and additional information detailed in Section 6 of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines. If an Eligible Entity is assessed as having a Score of 0, the Assessment Committee may seek additional information from the relevant Eligible Entity and provide that information together with the assessment for consideration by the Moderation Panel (see Section 8.3 of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further details) and advice to the Decision Maker.

Irrespective of the final score, if the Assessment Committee, Moderation Panel and/or the Decision Maker recommends that an existing IPA's Plan of Management (PoMs) should be updated, then a condition to update the PoM will be included in the new grant agreement.

### 8.2 Who will assess suitability?

The Assessment Committee will assess the suitability of each Eligible Entity against the Criteria in Section 6 informed by reviewing the information and documents listed in Section 6.

The Assessment Committee may be made up of employees from the Australian Government who have training, expertise and technical specialisation as required. We may ask external experts to inform the assessment process. All experts and Australian Government officials will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the [Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines](#)<sup>18</sup> (CGRGs).

The Assessment Committee may seek additional information about the organisations from other Commonwealth agencies. The Assessment Committee may also consider information about the organisations that is available through the normal course of business, and may also seek additional information from the Eligible Entities.

A draft Assessment Summary Report will be provided to the Moderation Panel and will include outcomes of the due diligence assessment undertaken by the Assessment Committee, any

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<sup>18</sup> [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines | Department of Finance](#)

additional information received from the Eligible Entity, and recommended grant amounts against each IPA project. The report will also include a list of recommended projects and their scores.

### 8.3 Moderation Panel

A Moderation Panel will be established to review the draft Assessment Summary Report and make recommendations to DCCEEW. DCCEEW will then make recommendations to the Minister for the Environment and Water to seek approval for funding to recommended providers.

The Moderation Panel will consist of senior officials from DCCEEW and NIAA, and independent First Nations expert/s. All members of the Moderation Panel will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs).

In making their recommendations, the Moderation Panel will review the draft Assessment Summary Report considering:

- the risk profile of individual projects, including outcomes of due diligence undertaken by DCCEEW and NIAA and
- any inconsistencies or contradictions identified through the assessment process.

The Panel may vary assessment scores or recommended grant amounts set out in the draft Assessment Summary Report as a result of its review. The Moderation Panel may seek additional information about organisations in their review of the Assessment Summary report.

### 8.4 Who will approve grants?

The Minister for the Environment and Water, in consultation with the Minister for Indigenous Australians, will make the final decision on approved grants. Advice to the Ministers will take into account the recommendations of the Moderation Panel and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program.

The Minister for the Environment and Water's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded
- any conditions attached to the offer of grant funding, and
- ensuring reporting requirements (particularly section 4 of the CGRGs) are met.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

At the discretion of the Minister for the Environment and Water (or delegate), additional funding may be made available for consultation IPA projects during the funding agreement negotiation. This is when more detail of annual activities and budget requirements are considered and agreed (for example, consultation IPAs may be eligible for a one-off establishment fee of up to \$100,000 to support the consultation process. See **Appendix A Funding Guide** for more detail on when this funding may be made available).

## 9. Notification of outcomes

We will advise all Eligible Entities of the outcome of this grant opportunity. All successful Eligible Entities will also be advised of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

### 9.1 Feedback on the outcome

If an Eligible Entity is unsuccessful, we will give those Eligible Entities the opportunity to receive feedback. A request for individual feedback on the grant opportunity outcome should be made to

DCCEEW within 20 days of being notified of the outcome by responding to the email. We will respond in writing to the request for feedback within 20 days.

## 10. Successful grants

### 10.1 Grant Agreement

If an Eligible Entity is successful, the Entity must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. We use a Commonwealth standard agreement in this Program.

Each agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. Sample grant agreement is available on [GrantConnect](#).

A grant agreement must be executed by both the Commonwealth agency and the Eligible Entity before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any expenditure made before a grant agreement is executed and the agreed project commencement date. The Commonwealth will not be able to reimburse any expenditure that occurs before the agreement is executed.

Eligible Entities may request changes to the details of a grant agreement through the negotiation process. However, we will review any required changes to these details to ensure any proposed changes do not impact the grant as approved by the Minister.

Eligible Entities will have 30 days from the date of the written offer to execute the new grant agreement with the Commonwealth ('execute' means both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement). During this time, DCCEEW and NIAA will work with the Eligible Entity to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

### 10.2 Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

Successful Eligible Entities are required to be compliant with all relevant laws and regulations.

Organisations funded for the delivery of IPA management activities must be able to demonstrate compliance with relevant workplace health and safety regulations applicable to the activities funded by the Commonwealth. Evidence of compliance with statutory requirements may be requested by the Commonwealth prior to approval of some activities (for example activities relating to fire management, firearms, operation of vehicles, vessels or remotely operated aircraft, diving, chemical use / storage).

### 10.3 How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the maximum grant amount to be paid over the life of the project activity. An Eligible Entity is responsible for any additional costs it may incur.

DCCEEW and NIAA will administer the payments according to the agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the grant project.

### 10.4 Grants Payments and GST

Payments will be [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#) Inclusive unless an Eligible Entity is not registered for GST or certain exceptions set out in the GST legislation apply. Subject to those exceptions, we will add GST to the grant payment and issue a [Recipient Created Tax Invoice](#).

Unless otherwise indicated, all figures quoted in grant documentation will be GST exclusive.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend Eligible Entities seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#).<sup>19</sup> We do not provide advice on Eligible Entities particular taxation circumstances.

## 11. Announcement of grants

If successful, grants to all Eligible Entities' will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by Section 5.3 of the [CGRGs](#).

We may also publish a national map showing the location of approved grants.

## 12. How we monitor your grant activity

### 12.1 Keeping us informed

Eligible Entities should let DCCEEW or NIAA know if anything is likely to affect their grant project or organisation.

We need to be made aware of any key changes to the organisation or its business activities, particularly if these affect the organisation's ability to complete the grant, carry on the business and pay debts due.

You must also inform us of any changes to your organisations:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

Eligible Entities are required to notify us of events relating to their grant and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

### 12.2 Reporting

Successful Eligible Entities are required to submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide templates for these reports. Successful Eligible Entities will be expected to report on progress against agreed grant project milestones and outcomes and expenditure of the grant.

DCCEEW and NIAA will monitor progress by assessing reports submitted and may conduct site visits or request records to confirm details of their reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

We will only make grant payments when satisfactory reports are received.

Successful Eligible Entities are required to discuss any delays in providing reports with DCCEEW or NIAA as soon as the organisation becomes aware of them.

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.ato.gov.au/>

### **12.3 Audited Financial acquittal report**

We may ask successful Eligible Entities to provide an independently audited financial acquittal report at the end of each financial year (for example, in circumstances where progress reports identify potentially high or low underspends). A financial acquittal report will verify that successful Eligible Entities spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement.

### **12.4 Grant agreement variations**

We acknowledge that unexpected events may affect progress on funded project activities. In these circumstances, either DCCEEW, NIAA or successful Eligible Entities can request a variation<sup>20</sup> to the grant agreement including:

- changing key performance indicators or milestones
- extending the timeframe for completing the grant project (with Program Delegate approval)
- changing project activities
- reducing or increasing funding.

If either DCCEEW, the NIAA or successful Eligible Entities want to propose changes to the grant agreement, the instigating party must put its concerns, issues and proposed changes in writing before the grant agreement end date. Eligible Entities should not assume that a variation request will be successful. DCCEEW and/or the NIAA will consider request based on factors such as:

- how it affects the grant project outcome
- consistency with the program policy objectives and any relevant policies of DCCEEW and/or NIAA
- changes to the timing of grant payments
- availability of program funding.

All decisions to vary a grant agreement must be mutually agreed between successful Eligible Entities and DCCEEW and/or NIAA before a variation is provided for the parties to execute.

Successful Eligible Entities should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

### **12.5 Compliance visits and record keeping**

We may visit successful Eligible Entities during or after the completion of the grant activity to review compliance with the grant agreement. We may also inspect, copy or remove and retain the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement. We will provide successful Eligible Entities with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

### **12.6 Evaluation**

We will evaluate the Program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may also interview successful Eligible Entities or ask for more information to help us understand how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

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<sup>20</sup> All grant agreements include relevant National Indigenous Australians Agency contact details for requesting grant agreement variations

## 13. Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRGs.

### 13.1 Enquiries and feedback

[DCCEEW's Suggestions, compliments and complaints](#) process applies to complaints about this grant opportunity. All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing.

Any questions you have about grant decisions for this grant opportunity should be sent to [IPAapplication@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:IPAapplication@dcceew.gov.au).

If you do not agree with the way the DCCEEW has handled your complaint, you may complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#). The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with DCCEEW.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072  
Email: [ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au)  
Website: [www.ombudsman.gov.au](http://www.ombudsman.gov.au)

### 13.2 Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if the DCCEEW's staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or Eligible Entities or any of their personnel:

- have a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the assessment process, such as an Australian Government officer or member of the Moderation Panel,
- have a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the Eligible Entities from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently, or
- have a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/ grant opportunity.

Eligible Entities may be asked to declare, as part of this grant process, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If an Eligible Entity identifies an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, an Eligible Entity must immediately inform the DCCEEW.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian [Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our conflict of interest policy on DCCEEW's website [Home - DCCEEW](#).

### 13.3 Privacy

We treat Eligible Entities' personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information

- who we give your personal information to.

Personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about Eligible Entity and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on [GrantConnect](#) as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information Eligible Entities give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

If you are granted funding you will need to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by DCCEEW would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Act.

### 13.4 Confidential Information

Other than information available in the public domain, Eligible Entities will be required to not disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant assessment and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where Eligible Entity are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require Eligible Entities to arrange for the entity; or their employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the three conditions below:

1. Eligible Entities clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
2. the information is commercially sensitive
3. revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- the Moderation Panel and other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, and

- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

### **13.5 Freedom of information**

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing by either emailing [FOI@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:FOI@dcceew.gov.au) or completing the [online request form](#).



## 14. Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the <a href="#">Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</a>
administering entity	when an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which IPA projects will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine IPA project rankings.
assessment process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve the assessment of IPA projects against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria and/or the moderation process
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity
<a href="#">Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)</a>	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
DCCEEW	means the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
Eligible Entities	Organisations listed in Section 4.2 of this Grant Opportunity Guidelines
end date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by

Term	Definition
grant	<p>for the purposes of the CGRGs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>under which relevant money<sup>21</sup> or other <a href="#">Consolidated Revenue Fund</a> (CRF) money<sup>22</sup> is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and</li> <li>which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.</li> </ol>
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement, and specifies the details of the grant
<a href="#">GrantConnect</a>	is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRGs
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	a 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single [entity] Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant
land	refers to any area of Australia on the landward side of coastal waters (coastal waters as defined in s.227 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 are: (a) the part or parts of the territorial sea that are: (i) within 3 nautical miles of the baseline of the territorial sea; and (ii) adjacent to that State or Territory; and (b) any marine or tidal waters that are inside that baseline and are adjacent to that State or Territory but are not within the limits of a State or that Territory). It includes all inland waters such as rivers and lakes.

<sup>21</sup> Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

<sup>22</sup> Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
Management plan and sectoral plan	<p>An IPA management plan is a key document that expresses the management aspirations of Traditional Owners for an IPA, identifies the IPA's natural and cultural values, assesses the threats to the values, and outlines a management approach to conserve the values. An IPA management plan also identifies opportunities for IPA managers to build financial and non-financial partnerships with government and non-government stakeholders.</p> <p>An IPA sectoral plan sits under the management plan and provides detailed information on how IPA managers propose to conserve a value or manage a threat. Typical sectoral plans include weed management plans, threatened species management plans and fire management plans.</p>
Natural Heritage Trust special account	is the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Account that is established under the <a href="#">Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997</a>
<a href="#">National Reserve System of Protected Areas</a>	The National Reserve System is Australia's network of protected areas. It protects examples of our natural landscapes and native plants and animals for future generations. It is made up of reserves owned by Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments, Indigenous lands and protected areas run by non-profit conservation organisations, through to ecosystems protected by farmers on their private working properties.
<a href="#">National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas</a>	The National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas is a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine reserves to contribute to the long-term conservation of marine ecosystems and to protect marine biodiversity.
NIAA	means the Commonwealth National Indigenous Australians Agency
PBS Program	described within the entity's <a href="#">Portfolio Budget Statement</a> , PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be Grant Programs. A PBS Program may have more than one Grant Program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
Program delegate	A senior Australian Government executive with responsibility for the program

Term	Definition
Sea country	refers to areas of sea and/or coastal environment that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups are particularly affiliated with through their traditional lore/law and customs.
Traditional Owners	<p>means a local descent-based group of Indigenous persons with responsibility for caring for country.</p> <p>Where a native title determination has been made, it means the Registered Native Title Body Corporate.</p> <p>Where a statutory grant of land rights has been made, it means the representative entity for that grant.</p> <p>Where an authorised Area Agreement and accompanying registered Indigenous Land Use Agreement has been negotiated, it means the native title group or representative body for that agreement area.</p>
value with money	value with money in this document refers to 'value with relevant money' which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.

## Appendix A. Funding Guide

\$160.5 million in grants is expected to be available under this Grant Opportunity. It is anticipated that most grants will be between \$100,000 and \$3 million over four years.

We will use the information in your current and past agreements, together with the budget guide below, to assign a recommended grant amount to each IPA project. This will also take into account the scope and complexity of each proposed project and we will obtain information on this from your IPA project. We may also seek additional information from you through a budget questionnaire as part of the grant assessment process (including for example any endorsed IPA expansion activities).

### Budget Guide

Annual Funding/Loading Allocation	IPA Consultation Projects	IPA Dedicated Projects
Standard Base Rate (Wages and on-costs)	\$174,128 (1.5 FTE)	\$116,085 (1 FTE)
Stakeholder and land tenure complexity	\$25,000 (high) <b>or</b> \$45,000 (very high)	\$25,000 (high) <b>or</b> \$45,000 (very high)
IPA size contribution	n/a	See table below
Capacity Loading	Up to \$30,000	Up to \$30,000
Establishment costs (one-off payment)	Up to \$100,000	n/a
Dedication Ceremony (one-off payment)	n/a	\$20,000 for IPA dedicated after 1 July 2024
Remoteness (based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Structure: <a href="#">Remoteness Areas   Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)</a> )	n/a	5.95% (outer regional) or 10.5% (remote) or 15% (very remote) of the sum of the above amounts Standard Base Rate, Complexity and IPA size contribution.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Sum of above</b>	<b>Sum of above</b>

*NB: These figures are annual amounts per IPA projects unless specified as one-off payment.*

### Principles of the funding model:

- **Two stage funding model:** there will be two separate funding models for consultation and dedicated IPA projects. Dedicated IPAs with planned expansion projects underway (as described in Section 2.2 of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines) **may** be considered for additional funding to undertake consultation activities. If a project moves from the consultation stage to the dedication stage, the project is eligible for the dedicated funding amounts.
- **Self-determination:** the funding model for dedicated activities, provides flexibility to allow grantees to self-determine how they spend their funds based on their own unique scope and priorities.
- **Operating environment:** considers the operating environment within which IPAs operate by providing loadings for remoteness, complexity and size.

### Consultation and Dedication stages:

A standard base rate is applied to consultation stage and dedication stage projects to provide funds to manage and co-ordinate activities, including planning, reporting, consultation, on ground works (dedication stage), and communication with Traditional Owners and partners.

### IPA contribution to the IPA estate:

Every dedicated stage project receives a loading based on the area (hectares) added to the IPA estate (including terrestrial and Sea Country). IPA grantees can choose to spend this funding on workforce or on-ground activities. This is summarised in Table 2, below.

Consultation stage projects do not attract this loading.

IPA Dedicated Projects		
Size Category	Size (ha) of IPA	Amount (FTE equivalent)
1	0-10,000	\$58,043 (0.5)
2	10,000 – 100,000	\$87,064 (0.75)
3	100,000 – 500,000	\$116,085 (1)
4	500,000 – 1,000,000	\$232,170 (2)
5	1,000,000 – 4,000,000	\$290,213 (2.5)
6	4,000,000 – 7,000,000	\$406,298 (3.5)
7	7,000,000 +	\$464,340 (4)

### Stakeholder and land tenure Complexity:

A complexity loading may be applied to consultation stage and dedication stage projects that demonstrate they are complex. Complex projects may involve consultation with a number of diverse stakeholders, existence of different types of land tenure, a large number of Traditional Owners, or any other complexities that may present barriers to their project.

The loading is a fixed amount.

There are two levels of complexity with corresponding loadings:

- **Complex projects** - will receive a loading of \$25,000 (GST exclusive)
- **Very complex** - will receive a loading of \$45,000 (GST exclusive)

Projects not deemed complex will not receive a complexity loading.

### Establishment loading:

Consultation IPAs will be eligible for a one-off establishment fee of up to \$100,000 to support the consultation process. This funding may be made available at the discretion of the Minister (or delegate) for consultation IPA projects during the contract negotiation stage. This funding may be used for infrastructure and assets as provided in Section 5.2 of these Grant Opportunity Guidelines, expertise to support plan of management development and additional administrative support to establish the consultation IPA.

Infrastructure expenses will need to be approved by DCCEEW and NIAA. The Commonwealth will register an interest in vehicle or large asset purchases.

This will not be available to existing Sea Country IPAs projects funded in 2022 through the Oceans Leadership Package.

### **Capacity Loading**

A capacity loading will be provided to an Eligible Entity where they are managing a single IPA project. This loading will be available to both consultation and dedicated IPA projects.

IPA projects that are managed by an Eligible Entity that are managing multiple IPA projects will not receive a capacity loading.

### **Other factors we will take into consideration:**

- Are Indigenous rangers currently working in the consultation area of the proposed project?
- Does the Eligible Entity (for dedicated IPA projects) have an existing planned expansion (i.e. a second phase or staged dedication) – as described in the most recent Plan of Management that was endorsed by the Australian Government, prior to 28 July 2023?
- What land and sea management activities are currently being undertaken by the Eligible Entity in the consultation area of the proposed project?
- Has a draft or finalised IPA management plan, Healthy Country Plan or similar plan been developed for the consultation area of the proposed project?
- Is there existing land and sea management related infrastructure, equipment, tools and machinery owned by or accessible to the Eligible Entity that could be used to deliver the project?
- Are vessels and vehicles owned by or accessible to the Eligible Entity that could be used to deliver the project?
- IPA projects won't receive more than double their annual funding compared to the total funding awarded to the project in 2023-24.

## Appendix B: guidance on eligible expenditure items

Eligible expenditure	Consultation Projects	Dedicated Projects
<b>Coordinator/s</b> – the cost of an IPA coordinator to manage the project.  <b>Note:</b> coordinator roles may be filled by Non-Indigenous employees, but preference should be given to employment of Indigenous Australians.	✓	✓
<b>Rangers and other staff</b> – the cost of engaging rangers/staff to work on the IPA, consistent with the management plan and annual project plans.  <b>Note:</b> The grant agreement will specify that all positions must be filled by Indigenous Australians.	✗	✓
<b>Specialist positions</b> – such as mentor, project manager, natural resource management or cultural management advisors.  <b>Note:</b> Specialist positions may be filled by Non-Indigenous employees, but preference should be given to employment of Indigenous Australians.	✓	✓
<b>Training</b> – relevant to the work to be undertaken by IPA project staff	✓	✓
<b>Technical advice or support</b> – where this is demonstrated as important for the success of the project	✓	✓
<b>IPA management plan and sectoral plans</b> <sup>23</sup> costs associated with the preparation of new management plans or the review of existing management plans. Costs associated with sectoral plans, for example, foreshore debris management plan, threatened species/communities management plans, pest management plans, preparation of MERI (Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement) plans and annual operational plans.	✓	✓
Costs associated with <b>mapping environmental and cultural values</b> , including coastal and underwater cultural heritage values	✓	✓
Activities related to <b>sharing/transferring traditional ecological and cultural knowledge</b> .	✓	✓
Costs associated with establishing <b>the baseline condition of natural or cultural heritage values</b> within an IPA. E.g. flora / fauna surveys, cultural heritage assessments.	✓	✓
<b>Consultation and meetings</b> – costs related to consultation and meetings to support the project, including the establishment of	✓	✓

<sup>23</sup> See defined term *management plan* and *sectoral plan* in the Glossary under section 14 of these Guidelines



IPA management and advisory committees with appropriate community and stakeholder representation.		
<p><b>Assets - for example vehicles, vessels, buildings</b></p> <p>Proponents must seek written approval from the Commonwealth for acquisition of assets of \$5000 or more in value (inclusive of GST). This includes leased assets (including buildings).</p> <p>Assets acquired with finance leases must be acquired by the funded organisation for delivery of the IPA activity at the completion of the lease period.</p> <p>Assets must remain available for delivery of the IPA activity until written approval from the Commonwealth is provided for disposal of the asset. Proceeds from the sale of assets must be returned to the IPA activity.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration may be given to the lease or purchase of vehicles for IPA consultation projects where necessary for delivery of the activity.</li> <li>• The Commonwealth may register a personal property security interest against relevant assets.</li> </ul>	✓	✓
<p><b>Transport and fuel expenses for vehicles, vessels or machinery</b>, including but not limited to: fuel, maintenance, registration, insurance and repairs.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p>Transport fuel and maintenance costs for IPA consultation activities will be considered where a vehicle acquisition (including leased) has been approved.</p>	✓	✓
<p><b>Operational Costs: materials, equipment, tools, machinery, pesticides</b> and similar items required for management activities including associated costs such as lease fees; registration and insurance; repairs and maintenance; storage.</p>	✗	✓
<p><b>Major capital/construction expenditure</b></p> <p>Heavy plant and equipment must be commensurate with the needs of the project.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> purchasing major capital/construction will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by DCCEE/NIAA.</p>	✗	✓
<p><b>Domestic travel</b> – travel costs to support visits to other protected areas and attendance at IPA managers' meetings and relevant conferences, workshops and training.</p>	✓	✓
<p><b>International travel</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> consideration will be given to supporting international travel costs on a case-by-case basis.</p>	✓	✓

<b>Administration and audit expenses</b> - may include administration costs for the project. i.e. minor office equipment and supplies; fees for professional services such as accountants and lawyers; insurance costs; bank fees and charges; other project related administration expense.  <b>Note:</b> should not exceed 15% of total annual budget. Consideration may be given for up to 20% on a case-by-case basis.	✓	✓
<b>Community events</b> – where this will clearly contribute to community participation in the project and knowledge transfer of project outcomes	✓	✓
<b>Dedication event</b> - costs associated with holding an event acknowledging the dedication of an IPA.  <b>Note:</b> This is a one-off payment	✗	✓
<b>On ground/on-sea activities</b> such as pest plant or animal management, foreshore debris removal, cultural site management, sea patrols, fire management.	✗	✓
<b>Minor works</b> such as signage, where it relates to the conservation or management of places.	✗	✓
<b>Maintenance</b> of trails, firebreaks and infrastructure such as fencing and sheds/boatsheds and jetties.	✗	✓
<b>Permits or approvals</b> – where these are essential for a project related activity.	✗	✓
<b>Promotion of traditional language</b> – such as translation services to translate Plans of Management or maps or other relevant documents into traditional language.	✓	✓